

Delaware P-20 Council
Educator Supports for Early Literacy Through Institutions of
Higher Education Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes
DRAFT

Delaware State University
1200 North DuPont Highway Dover, DE 19901
Claibourne Administrative Building, Barros Conference Room
November 18, 2019
1:00 p.m.

Members Present: Shelley Rouser, Delaware State University; Carol Vukelich, University of Delaware; Pam Alfaro, Department of Education; Kathryn Brown, Wilmington University; Caitlin Gleason, Department of Education (on behalf of Kim Krzanowski); Jessica Walsh, Christina School District/DSEA; Audrey Noble, State Board of Education; Wali Rushdan, State Board of Education.

Others Present: Jenna Ahner, State Board of Education; Monica Gant, Delaware Department of Education; Deb Stevens, Delaware State Education Association.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Vukelich called the meeting to order at 1:10p.m.

II. Approval of September 25, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The Committee did not have any updates to the draft minutes. There was not a quorum of members present who attended the last meeting to approve the minutes.

III. Discuss Feedback from P-20 Council Members on Teacher Preparation Recommendations and Next Steps

Dr. Rouser provided an update to the P-20 Council at its October 21, 2019 meeting. The Council discussed opportunities to clarify the recommendations and prioritize next steps.

Committee members discussed opportunities to consider and address consequences that may contribute to hesitancy to adopt recommendations. The Committee also discussed opportunities to reorganize the recommendations into short and long term priorities. The group will consider how to recommend prioritization to the Council.

Committee members discussed the variety of initiatives underway to support early childhood education and early literacy and who is responsible for coordinating. The Committee discussed the desire to align recommendations across organizations to ensure a clear and concrete ask to decision makers.

Committee members discussed the needs assessment that was completed as a part of the Preschool Development Grant. The P-20 Council could consider next steps related to the results of the needs assessment.

IV. Discuss Strengths and Opportunities in Delaware For Professional Learning and Advanced Degrees to Support Early Literacy

The Department of Education has secured a project manager to support the Literacy Plan. The Department has looked to include Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) in the development of micro-credentials. In the Spring of 2020, the Department may train teams to develop and evaluate micro-credentials and there is a desire to include IHEs in this work.

The Department is interested in creating a Summer Learning Institute focused on evidence-based reading. The Department is interested in determining what professional development can be offered within this Institute. Committee members discussed the interest of teachers in seeking out professional learning to support early literacy.

The Committee discussed the role and qualifications of reading interventionists and reading specialists. The Committee discussed if there are opportunities to stack qualifications for interventionists and specialists. The Committee discussed the desire to offer coursework that will allow teachers to gain skills related to early literacy instruction. The Committee discussed whether there are examples of IHEs that are preparing students to distinguish high-quality instructional materials and create supplemental materials to support instruction.

Committee members discussed the availability of student teaching opportunities in districts with high-quality instructional material and with strong mentors. The Committee discussed opportunities to utilize policy to support this work.

Kathy Brown, Wilmington University, provided information on certificates, graduate programs, and professional development underway at Wilmington University. The Committee reviewed the courses that are available and discussed the current enrollment in the program. The Committee discussed the value of specific courses and the connection to specializations.

The Department discussed the recommendation in the Literacy Plan to provide literacy content to administrators. Committee members discussed opportunities to incorporate this training as a part of the administrator programs at the Institutions of Higher Education. Members also discussed opportunities for training available through micro-credentials.

Carol Vukelich, University of Delaware, provided an overview of the M.Ed. in Literacy and the PhD in Education. The Committee discussed the details of the practicum and the use of a video assessment. The Committee discussed how coursework prepares candidates to work with and train teachers.

The Committee discussed whether students can take one course without being enrolled in the full program.

V. Next Steps of the Committee

The group recapped themes from the conversation that could be considered for future recommendations.

The meeting adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

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